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THE 1942 SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH PLAN OF THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES USSR

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The 1948 scientific research plan of the Academy of Sciences USSR, which has been printed and distributed, indicates only the most important directions of the Academy's scientific activity. The topics are taken from the Five-Year Plan of the Academy of Sciences USSR and include a number of new problems that have been introduced by scientific institutes and ministries. The plan contains scientific problems, the solution of which will assist in the fulfillment of the Five-Year Plan for restoration and development of the national economy of the USSR, and also will contribute to the general development and expansion of science and techniques.

The work on the yearly plan started in September of last year. Suggestions for the plan were discussed in departments, laboratories, and divisions of the institutes, in meetings of the scientific councils of the institutes, and in meetings of the departmental offices.

The Presiding Council of the Academy of Sciences USSR, in special sessions during November and December 1947 which were attended by academicians, associate members of the Academy, representatives of ministries, and affiliate academies of sciences, discussed and approved inclusion of the problem in the basic working plan. The plan was approved in its final form at the 8 January 1948 meeting.

The general plan of fundamental scientific research work of the Academy for 1948 includes 336 problems and 114 expeditions.

The plan includes a considerable number of problems which will be developed in following years.

In addition to problems and theses included in the plan of fundamental work, the institutes and laboratories are working on a considerable number of individual theses which are also of great scientific and practical importance.

Among the problems assigned to the Department of Physicomathematical Sciences, an important place will be occupied by research on cosmic rays, work

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in the field of luminescence, study of the earth's strata, and physical research of the stars and the sun.

The chemical sciences are represented in the plan by research in the field of energetics of the simplest compounds, theories of the structure of organic and inorganic molecules, the chemistry of peroxide compounds, research in the field of catalytic reactions, synthesis of complex "steroid-like" systems, extraction of high-quality motor oil, etc.

In the field of geological-geographical sciences, principal attention is directed to the development and close investigation of tectonics, stratigraphy, lithology, petrography, and also to research on the genesis and geology of mining deposits in various regions of the USSR. Further work will include the compiling of soil and soil erosion maps of the USSR, problems of regularity of development of physical-geographical environment, and geography of the USSR and foreign countries.

The Department of Biological Sciences will carry out research on all forms, chemical and physical bases of life processes, photosynthesis, possibilities of controlled variations of hereditary characteristics, interrelations of organisms and environment, evolution of physiological and biological functions, higher nerve activity, as well as providing a scientific foundation for obtaining good crops regularly and rationalization of forestry.

Institutes under the Department of Technical Sciences will concentrate their study on the solution of problems connected with construction and rating of machines, devices, and equipment which operate under conditions of high temperature and pressure and at high temperature and pressure and at high speeds, development of a system of automatic regulation, investigation of problems concerning fuel and power engineering, and further research to improve technological processes, particularly metallurgical processes.

The Department of Social Sciences will direct its efforts on the solution of questions in the field of ideological work presented by the TsK VKP (b) (Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party (Bolshevik)). Among the work planned, there is first of all the voluminous work on the history of the USSR, the history of the Great Socialist October Revolution, and the history of the working class of the USSR.

The Institute of Philosophy will prepare for publication fundamental works on questions of Marxist-Leninist philosophy: dialectical materialism, historical materialism, history of philosophy, Soviet government in the period of transition from socialism to Communism, and others.

A prominent position in the works on economic and legal sciences will be occupied by problems of the political economy of socialism, as well as problems connected with the solution of the fundamental economic problem of the USSR and realization of the transition to Communism, problems of the Soviet government and law, international law, and the crisis of bourgeois democracy.

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